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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,869	12/30/2003	Steve Hurson	NOBELB.163A	3711

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EXAMINER	
LEWIS, RALPH A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3732	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/27/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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SP

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/748,869

Applicant(s)

HURSON, STEVE

Examiner

Ralph A. Lewis

Art Unit

3732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 18-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 18-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 4, 6, 8-11 there is no antecedent basis for "the cap." Applicant eliminated the element from the base claim.

Obvious-type Double Patenting Rejections

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 30-34 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No.

6,769,913 in view of Fradera (US 4,790,753) in view of Kumar et al (US 6,951,462).

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the patented claims of '913 teach the use of an impression cap with injection port and vent holes and use of a syringe to inject impression material into the cap through the injection port. Merely, providing for a '913 patented cap/method for use with the prior art Fradera implant with prior art insertion means as taught by Kumar et al so that impressions may be made more accurately would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Rejections based on Prior Art

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fradera (US 4,790,753) in view of Kumar et al (US 6,951,462).

Fradera discloses a dental implant 1 having an integrally formed body portion 10 and abutment portion 13, 14. The abutment portion includes a flare portion 13, shoulder portion 24, and final restoration portion 14. The Fradera implant further includes a cap 26 with internal cavity for fitting over final restoration portion 14 of the implant. The implant further includes a threaded bore 16 that lacks the distinctly claimed notch which

receives the specifically claimed mating component with lever arms or prongs configured to engage the notch.

Fradera fails to disclose how the implant 1 is maneuvered to the implant site and installed. Kumaret al, however, for a similar dental implant teach that it is desirable to provide the threaded internal bore 62 with an engaging notch 66 which engages the prong 32 of an insertion tool 10 so that the implant can be easily handled and maneuvered into position in a sterile manner. To have modified the Fadera implant to have a notch as taught by Kumar to receive an insertion tool as taught by Kumar et al so that the implant can be easily positioned as would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In regard to claims 8, 9 and 11, the Fadera implant further includes a cap 25 with internal cavity for fitting over final restoration portion 14 of the implant. Fadera does not appear to disclose the color of cap 25 as required by claims 8 and 9; however, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it readily obvious to make the cap of natural white tooth color for cosmetic reasons. In regard to claim 11, to have made the cap of an oval or more tooth shape for cosmetic reasons would also have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fradera (US 4,790,753) and Kumar et al (US 6,951,462) as applied above and in further view of Hurson (WO 01/85050).

In regard to claim 4, Hurson '050 teaches that it is desirable to extend the flange of the cap over the shoulder of the abutment in order to prevent gum tissue from near and above the shoulder region (note page 9, lines 22-33). To have extended the end of the Fradera cap 25 over the shoulder 24 in order to prevent the unwanted gum tissue growth as taught by Hurson would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. In regard to claims 8 and 9, Hurson teaches making the cap of a tooth color (page 7, lines 30 and 31).

Claims 18-27 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fradera (US 4,790,753) and Kumar et al (US 6,951,462) as applied above and in further view of Marlin (US 5,135,395) and Meiers et al (US 5,688,123).

Fradera fails to disclose a procedure for manufacturing a prosthesis for the implant disclosed. Marlin teaches the conventional manufacture of a prosthesis with a plastic coping that precisely fits over the abutment, encasing it in stone and then burning out the coupling leaving an opening in which the prosthesis is cast. To have provided a coping that precisely fits the Fradera abutment (e.g. one shaped like Meiers et al with "standoff" 5) and then using the coping to construct a prosthesis in a prior art investment cast technique as that disclosed by Marlin would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in desiring to construct a prosthesis for the Fradera implant.

Action Made Final

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to **Ralph Lewis** at telephone number **(571) 272-4712**. Fax (571) 273-8300. The examiner works a compressed work schedule and is unavailable every other Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Cris Rodriguez, can be reached at (571) 272-4964.

R. Lewis
July 22, 2007


Ralph A. Lewis
Primary Examiner
AU 3732